

This weekend, the Democrats will pose as proud fathers of Medicare on its 30th anniversary.

But, when the prodigal son comes home facing imminent bankruptcy and desperately needing help, those proud parents turn their backs, close their minds, and close the door on America's senior citizens.

Where it comes to Medicare, the Democrats are deadbeat dads.

We urge the Democrats to join us as we work to strengthen Medicare for today's and tomorrow's retired Americans.

LET US GET TO THE TRUTH ON WACO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Federal agents say that cult leaders in Waco were liars, and that may be true. But something does not add up. It is now known that Federal officials came to learn that their so-called surprise raid had been leaked. They were expected to show at the compound. They knew that the surprise element was gone. That raid had danger and escalation written all over it like a neon sign, yet they sent in the troops. Four agents were killed.

Now, let us tell it like it is. Those cult leaders may have been liars, but those Federal agents and leaders have been lying through their teeth, stone cold lying through their teeth. They knew what was happening. They are lying to the American people, and Congress should not allow it.

From Potts down, this thing stinks. You know it. I know it. The American people know it.

Let us get to the truth.

IMPROVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. If we do nothing about it, in 7 years it will be totally bankrupt. But instead of backing reforms, some Members in this body want to play politics with this very important issue.

Let me share with you a letter I just received from a constituent:

I am sending the enclosed to you to add to your file of examples of the foolish and wasteful application of government personnel and funds. I would be embarrassed to present this check to my bank for processing.

And here is a check for 1 cent, sent to him as a Medicare B payment.

The Republican Party is determined to save Medicare. Mr. Speaker, we intend to create a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost. Together we will improve Medicare so that it can be protected and saved.

SENIORS WILL FIGHT FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, well, another day has passed without our Republican colleagues disclosing even a single detail of how they are going to hike health care costs for American seniors. What they have disclosed in a cynical memo are the details of how they are going to try to convince seniors that they are not in fact being had.

Yes, Speaker GINGRICH has turned to the same public relations firm that generated that all-time great campaign gimmick, the contract on Americans. And now they have produced an interesting document called, everything you ever wanted to know, not about saving Medicare, but about communicating Medicare.

And what does it tell us? It says: Do not talk about improving Medicare, Republican colleagues. We cannot afford to raise expectations.

Well, that is revealing. Then it goes on to say: Keep in mind that seniors are very pack oriented and very susceptible to being led.

When it comes to older Americans, I respect their intelligence as well as their pocketbook, and they are not going to be led in a pack off a cliff by a bunch of Republicans. They are going to fight for Medicare.

SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas once again comes to the well of the House playing politics with Medicare. Communicating Medicare? What is wrong with that idea? Standing up in town hall meetings saying: Friends, we have a problem, which three Cabinet-level secretaries, three appointees of the President admit that Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years if we do nothing. What is wrong with that?

And taking time to rationalize and formalize a rational policy on Medicare, where is the crime there? Far better to be engaged with the American public, working to save the program of Medicare, than to march to the well of the House as so many of my liberal friends do trying to scare senior citizens.

The fact is, yes, we are trying to communicate the fact that we have to save Medicare. And, yes, we are engaged in trying to save the very program. Do not let the whine producers, W-H-I-N-E, come to the floor again and again and whine and complain.

Challenge them to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are accusing Democrats of scaring senior citizens. Seniors should be scared because we do not have a plan yet from the Republicans, only leaked documents that lead us to believe Republicans plan to cut the program substantially. And so I ask one question: Why the secret or the stealth attack on Medicare? Why are the Republicans proposing deep and devastating cuts in the programs for seniors over the next 7 years? Well, they would answer they are trying to save the program from bankruptcy. At least that is what they have been told to say by their pollsters. They are being told to tell them you are saving the program, but they are really gutting it.

Let us think back to the last session of Congress, the 103d session, when Republicans attacked the Democratic plan to shore up Medicare. I remember there was not one Republican vote that helped pass that plan.

Now let us ask: Why are you raiding Medicare to balance the budget while at the same time providing huge tax cuts that almost equal the same amount that you are cutting for Medicare over the next 7 years?

Frankly, if it were up to Republicans, Medicare would not even exist today. But for many years now, Medicare has proven time and time again that it is one of the true success stories of our Government. It has dramatically improved the health care of our seniors and never again will older Americans have to choose between health care and rent or food.

MEDICARE

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, once again, one more time we hear the liberal Democrats whining and crying. They go to great lengths to convince senior citizens that Republicans are going to hurt them. But instead of the overheated rhetoric, let us talk about the facts.

It is a fact that in the last Congress, liberal Democrats voted to increase taxes on seniors. Not one Republican voted for that tax increase. Earlier this year, the Republicans voted to give seniors a tax cut to allow the seniors to keep more of the money that they earn. What did the liberal Democrats do? They voted against the tax cut for seniors.

When the trustees of Medicare, including three members of Mr. Clinton's administration, reports that Medicare is going bankrupt, Republicans are stepping up, stepping up to the plate trying to fix Medicare and preserve this system for the next century.

What is the liberal Democratic plan for Medicare? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

MEDICARE AND OLDER WOMEN

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a social contract between the Federal Government and the American people. Nearly 20 million older women, many of them in Florida, have come to rely on quality health care under this program.

However, the sad fact is that women age 65 and over already spend an average of \$2,827 for acute health care alone—33 percent of the median annual income of older women.

We must support and strengthen Medicare so that it can do more—not less—especially toward paying for prescription drugs and long-term care.

Until there is comprehensive health care reform, the Medicare Program must be protected from cuts that will jeopardize older women.

THE MONCADA BARRACKS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 42d anniversary of Castro's nighttime attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba, an event which led to the emergence of Castro's rebel army and his ultimate triumphant, yet, as we were later to learn, tragic ride into Havana in 1959.

Little did many Cubans know that what occurred that night in 1953 was only the preamble to a tyranny that Cuba had not seen before. Tomorrow night my colleagues, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART], the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], and I will host a dinner for our congressional colleagues with the participation of four victims of this 36-year-old tyranny.

Among them will be three former Cuban political prisoners who combined spent over 50 years in prison, one of them being a veteran of the Moncada attack. Also joining us will be a survivor of the latest indiscriminate attack last year by Castro on a tugboat filled with Cuban refugees.

These four individuals will offer firsthand accounts of Castro's thirst for political control of the island and the totalitarian methods he uses to maintain that control.

I urge my colleagues to join us tomorrow night.

NRA/WACO

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans cut the size of committee staffs at the beginning of this Congress, I was worried some congressional work would not get done.

Then, I figured out how the new GOP chairmen were going to manage.

As this week's Judiciary Committee hearings prove, they'll simply turn to the National Rifle Association for help.

But what kind of hearings did the NRA help with?

With hearings on welfare reform?

With hearings on health care?

No—with the Waco hearings.

Hearings where the actions of law enforcement agents were called into question—the same agents that the NRA calls thugs.

Hearings where laws combating the dangerous proliferation of guns are a central issue—the same laws that the NRA wants to wipe off the books.

When I entered Congress 2 years ago, I thought that the gun lobby had too large a role to play in the backrooms of Congress.

Now, it's obvious that they've moved from the backrooms to the committee rooms.

We do not even have to call them the gun lobby these days—because now, they do not even have to do their dirty work in the lobbies anymore.

MEDICARE AT A CROSSROADS

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is at a crucial crossroads. President Clinton's Medicare board of trustees stated in their April 1995 report, and I quote “. . . the fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001 . . .” In other words, if we do nothing—as the liberal Democrats suggest—millions of Medicare recipients will be denied services. But, the obstructionist liberals would rather criticize the strengthening of Medicare than do something to save it. Medicare is a large Government bureaucracy that does not offer the degree of choice seniors deserve. Republicans are going to strengthen and simplify Medicare by controlling its skyrocketing costs and giving seniors more choices in services. Everyone agrees that Medicare is going broke, but only the Republicans in Congress are posing a solution to that problem. I invite my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to end their empty rhetoric and join our effort to save Medicare.

□ 1020

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be

permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on House Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, it is my understanding that our Democratic leadership has been consulted on this matter and we have no objection to this request, so I withdraw by reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

SAN DIEGO COASTAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1995

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1943) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to deem certain municipal wastewater treatment facilities discharging into ocean waters as the equivalent of secondary treatment facilities.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1943

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “San Diego Coastal Corrections Act of 1995”.

SEC. 2. COASTAL DISCHARGES.

Section 304(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) COASTAL DISCHARGES.—For purposes of this subsection, any municipal wastewater treatment facility shall be deemed the equivalent of a secondary treatment facility if each of the following requirements is met:

“(A) The facility employs chemically enhanced primary treatment.

“(B) The facility, on the date of the enactment of this paragraph, discharges through an ocean outfall into an open marine environment greater than 4 miles offshore into a depth greater than 300 feet.

“(C) The facility's discharge is in compliance with all local and State water quality standards for the receiving waters.